

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8997

USIA WASHDC

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BURSELS

CINCURNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BELGRADE 1623

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO IT US

SUBJ: YUGOSLAV-ITALIAN TRIESTE ZONE B DISPUTE - DARK IMAGE -

MEDIA REACTION

1. BELGRADE MEDIA TODAY FOR FIRST TIME PUBLICIZE US POSITION ON CURRENT DISPUTE AND NATO MANEUVER. TANJUG WIRE LAST NIGHT AND BULLETIN TODAY CARRIED ARTICLE DATED WASHINGTON, APRIL 5, QUOTING REPLY OF STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, JOHN KING, TO QUESTION BY AFP CORRESPONDENT TO EFFECT THAT "US SUPPORTS NEITHER CLAIMS OF YUGOSLAVIA NOR ITALY TO TERRITORIES UNDER SOVEREIGNTY OR ADMINISTRATION OF OTHER COUNTRY." TANJUG COMMENTS THAT "THIS MIGHT LEAD TO WRONG CONCLUSION THAT SUCH CLAIMS BEING MADE BY BOTH SIDES," AN ATTITUDE ALLEGED ALSO TO BE REFLECTED IN US PRESS "WHICH HAS BEEN MORE OR LESS THROWING EQUAL BLAME FORRENEWING OF DISPUTE ON YUGOSLAVIA AND ITALY." ARTICLE CONTINUES

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BY ASSERTING IT IS "WELL-KNOWN" THAT BORDER QUESTION WAS SETTLED

IN 1954 BY LONDON MEMORANDUM AND FOR PAST TWENTY YEARS SITUATION HAS REMAINED AS SPECIFIED IN THIS AGREEMENT. ONLY CHANGES OR "DEMANDS FOR TERRITORY UNDER SOVERIGNTY OR ADMINISTRATION OF OTHER SIDE" HAVE COME FROM SIDE OF ITALY. ITALIAN NOTE TO YUGOSLAVIA NOT ONLY STATED TO BE "AN EXPRESSION OF TERRITORIAL CLAIMS... BUT ALSO DISPUTES LONDON MEMORANDUM, WHOSE SIGNATORIES INCLUDE GOVERNMENT OF THE US." THEREFORE, ARTICLE CONCLUDES, TO TAKE "EQUAL VIEW" OF ITALY AND YUGOSLAVIA IN LATEST DISPUTE AND TO EXPRESS OFFICIALLY THAT "US SUPPORTS NEITHER YUGOSLAVI NOR ITALIAN TERRITORIA CLAIMS" IS IN FACT, AN "'OBJECTIVE STANCE' BEHIND WHICH GREAT DOUBTS REMAINS AS TO REAL STAND, MOTIVES AND AIRMS." "FINALLY," ARTICLE ASKS, "WHAT IS MEANING OF COMBINING AND INSISTING TODAY ON TERMS 'SOVERIGNTY AND ADMINISTRATION' TWENTY YEARS AFTER ESTABLISHMENT OF SOVEREIGN REIGHTS FOR ITALY IN TRIESTE AND YUGOSLAVIA IN KOPER AND BUJE AREA? YUGOSLAVIA CAN ONLY EXPRESS DOUBTS IN RELATION TO THIS LACK OF CLARITY WHICH IS CERTAINLY NOT ACCIDENTAL."

2. TANJUG ALSO QUOTES KING AS "REPEATING STAND PRESENTED SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER THAT NATO NAVAL MANEUVERS... HAVE QUITE 'ACCIDENTALLY' COINCIDED WITH ACTIONS IN ITALY, ACTIONS PUBLICLY CONDEMNED IN YUGOSLAVIA AS ASPIRATIONS TO TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AND AS IN VIOLATION OF LONDON MEMORANDUM." TANJUG FINDS THIS STATEMENT "NEIGHER MORE CONVINCING NOR MORE REASSURING", STATING YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL CIRCLES KNOW THAT MANEUVERS WERE PLANNED EARLIER, BUT "FACT REMAINS THAT THEY HAVE COME AT WORST POSSIBLE MOMENT OF YUGOSLAV-ITALIAN RELATIONS AND THAT YUGOSLAV SIDE COMMUNICATED TIMELY WARNING THAT THEY COULD NOT BE VIEWED INDEPENDENTLY OF ANTI-YUGOSLAV MOVES OF ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. FURTHERMORE, NOBODY CAN CLAIM THAT THESE MOVES, BASICALLY IRREDENTIST, WERE NOT PLANNED AND TIMED PRECISELY TO CONCIDE WITH PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED MANEUVERS." "FINALLY", QUERIES TANJUG, "WOULD IT NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, ESPECIALLY SINCE MANEUVERS ARE CLAIMED TO BE OF MINOR IMPORTANCE, TO POSTPONE THESE MILITARY QOPERATIONS, WHICH - AS IT IS EMPHASIZED IN BELGRADE - UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE MADE CURRENT SITUATION EVEN WORSE?"

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3. ELSEWHERE, TANJUG CARRIES STATEMENT OF SLOVENIAN PARTY CONGRESS THAT "PROVOCATIVE MANEUVERS" OF US AND ITALIAN FORCES IN NORTHERN ADRIATIC INDICATE THAT ACTIONS OF ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ARE "INTEGRAL PART OF BORDER PRESSURE ON NON-ALIGNED, SOCIALIST YUGOSLAVIA." MONTENEGRIN PARTY CONGRESS FOREIGN POLICY RESOLUTION ALSO QUOTED CRITICIZING ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FOR "JEPARDIZING YUGOSLAVIA'S SOVEREIGNTY" AND

"MANEUVERS IF ITALIAN MILITARY UNITS, SUPPORTED BY US  
SIXTH FLEET . . BEING HELD IN VICINITY OF YUGOSLAVIA'S  
BORDERS AND ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS THESE DAYS ..." AS " GROSS  
PRESSURE ON SOCIALIST, SELF-MANAGING YUGOSLAVIA."

4. BOTH BORBA AND POLITIKA CARRY TANJUG WASHINGTON DATELINE  
REPORT, LATTER ON PAGE 1 WITH HEADLINE "US PLACES ITALY AND  
YUGOSLAVIA ON 'EQUAL FOOTING'", AND FORMER ON PAGE 2 UNDER  
HEADLINE "POSITION OF WASHINGTON IMPARTIAL AND-- UNCLEAR."  
BORBA ALSO CARRIES SLOVENIAN AND MONTENEGRIN PARTY CONGRES  
STATEMENTS.  
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